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FARMS AS WEALTH PRODUCERS.

Statistics From the Report of the
Secretary of Agriculture.

FOUNDATION OF PROSPERITY.

Washington, Dec. 2.—“Wealth production on the farms of the United States in 1905 reached the highest amount ever attained in this or any other country—\$8,415,000,000.”

In the first annual report of his third term, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson presents an array of figures and statements representing the products and profits of the farmers of the country.

“Four crops make new high records as to value—corn, hay, wheat and rice, although in amount of production the corn crop is the only one that exceeds previous yields.” In every crop the general level of production was high and that of prices still higher. Besides the enormous yield of wealth, the secretary estimates that the farms of the country have increased in value during the past five years to a present aggregate of \$6,133,000,000.

“Every sunset during the past five years,” he says, “has registered an increase of \$3,400,000 in the value of the farms of this country.” This increased value, the secretary suggests, is invested better than in bank deposits, or even in the gilt-edged bonds of private corporations.

THE CROP REPORT “LEAK.”

In dealing with the crop report “leak” Secretary Wilson, after referring to the “gross breach of trust on the part of one of the employees of the bureau of statistics,” says: “This department acted with vigor and dispatch when it got evidence of wrong doing on the part of its own officials, but we have no evidence of disciplinary or preventive action at the traders’ end of the

line, where gamblers interested neither in the production nor consumption disturb values to the injury of both and make loud outcry when creatures of their own kind corrupt officials to betray confidence for the love of money. The responsibility for this ‘leak’ is shared by everyone, who, to get money without work, gambles in farm products. When this form of industry ceases these parasites who tempt department officials will have to work for their bread.”

The method of handling crop reports, he says, has been thoroughly recast during the year. There also has been a decided change in the methods of work prescribed for field agents. Each agent is now confined to a definite group of states, with which he becomes thoroughly familiar by travel each month.

ANALYSIS OF THE CROPS.

Analyzing the principal crops for the year, the secretary says that corn reached its highest production with 2,708,000,000 bushels, a gain of 42,000,000 over the next lowest year, 1899; hay is second in order of value, although cotton held second place during the two preceding years. The hay crop this year is valued at \$605,000,000. Cotton comes third, with a valuation of \$576,000,000; wheat \$525,000,000; oats, \$282,000,000; potatoes, \$138,000,000; barley, \$58,000,000; tobacco, \$62,000,000; sugar cane and sugar beets, \$50,000,000; rice, \$13,892,000; dairy products, \$665,000,000, an increase of \$54,000,000 over last year.

“The farmer’s hen,” the secretary says, “is becoming a worthy companion to his cow. The annual production of eggs is now a score of billions. Poultry products have climbed to a place of more than a half billion dollars in value, so the farmer’s hen competes with wheat for precedence.”

There are more horses and with a larger aggregate value, than ever before, notwithstanding, as the secretary says, they were first threatened by the bicycle and later by the suburban trolley and the automobile. He estimates their value at \$1,200,000,000 or nearly as much as the corn crop.

Although milk cows are increasing in number and value, the report states that other cattle and sheep have for several years been decreasing. There are 17,570,000 milk cows valued at \$482,000,000. Other cattle are numbered at 43,669,000, with a value of \$662,000,000. Swine number 47,321,000, valued at \$283,255,000. In the aggregate the value of farm animals has increased a few million dollars within the year and since the census of 1900 has increased nine per cent.

WHAT THE SURPLUS SHOWS.

With this enormous production, the secretary says, the wants of 83 million people have been supplied, with a remaining surplus constituting a generous contribution to other nations. The exported farm products during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, had a value of \$1,827,000,000, which was less by \$51,000,000 than the average exports for the five preceding years. In accounting for this the secretary says: “Owing to the short wheat crop, there was a decreased export of that cereal amounting to \$41,000,000; of \$5,000,000 in the exports of packing house products, and another \$5,000,000 in fruits and other minor items. The increase included \$9,350,000 in cotton; \$4,700,000 in oil cake and oil cake meal; \$4,000,000 in vegetable oils, and \$2,000,000 in rice and various minor products. During the last sixteen years” the secretary says, “the domestic exports of farm products have amounted to \$12,000,000,000 or \$1,000,000,000 more than enough to buy all the railroads of this country at their commercial value, and this with a mere surplus for which there was no demand at home.”

THE FARMER AS A BANKER.

Secretary Wilson points out that the farmer is taking an important part in developing the manufacturing interests of the country by furnishing raw material, and that he has also become a banker. The farm contributions to manufacturers during the year were \$2,679,000,000. Under the recent amendment to the national banking act allowing the establishment of banks with a capitalization of less than \$50,000, there have been 1,754 such banks established in the last year, nearly every one of which is located in a rural community and the capital furnished by farmers. Speaking of the increase in deposits in banks by farmers, the secretary states: “In the north central states farmers have been depositing money in the banks until the rate of interest on deposits has fallen so low that they have diverted a large portion of their savings to permanent investments. In spite of the fact that banks do not receive and keep all or most of the farmers’ savings, the increase of bank deposits in agricultural districts is most extraordinary.”

“Still more remarkable is the bank statement for the south central states, where deposits increased 18.1 per cent.

An Enjoyable Thanksgiving Dinner.

That is just what the Double Seven enjoyed with L. C. Breeden and family. There was a big lot to feed, and a big lot of feed. And when the crowd went home, there was not much left. The guests comprised all the members of the Double Seven, except W. H. Dodge, and all the young folks except the Misses Stoke, and Miss Hooper, who is away to school. Others were D. C. Luse, wife Miss Maude, Claude and Wesley, Thos. Knight and wife, Mrs. Rowell, and Moter, Mrs. Cross, and Miss Marcia Pursell, and Jake Shively, making 41 in all. Mrs. Cross, lacking a few months of being 84 years old, was the oldest one present, and baby Feder a little less than four months old, the youngest. A sumptuous repast had been provided by the ladies of the club and the guests, and the afternoon was spent with cards, music, and other pastimes. A few remained for the evening and enjoyed more pleasure. Mort Fitts and wife, who are still considered members, were missed, all hoping that these good people would see their way back to Great Bend before long and join the crowd.

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GOOD DOCTRINE.

Literature Being Sent Out That Boosts
Great Bend the Right Way.

Great Bend people are asked to stand by the town to boost for Home Industries, to push all along the line for the bringing of new industries, new businesses, new people to this city. If we all push together, each give the other a chance to make all the profit we can then we will each have a little nest egg to invest in Great Bend. When you are going to pay out money that has profit attached to it you should prefer to pay it to a Great Bend man to paying it to a Kansas City, Wichita or Chicago man. Wichita, Kansas City and Chicago men spend their money at home—they are not looking for a chance to help Great Bend.

A general movement to stand by home industries would be a good thing for the city. Some of the Great Bend firms are sending out a little folder showing the things that Great Bend possesses and suggesting that it would be a good thing for the man who receives it to line up for Great Bend. It contains the following, which is good reading:

When Kansas people purchase merchandise from Missouri, that can be purchased in Kansas, they are paying Missouri a tax they owe to Kansas.

If Kansas people do not patronize home merchants and home merchants do not patronize home jobs and Kansas jobbers do not use Kansas finished products, so far as possible (everything being equal) they are not giving Home or Kansas a “square deal.”

In foot ball Thanksgiving day, Great Bend played even. The High School team won at Lyons in a score of 7 to 6, and the City team lost the game to La Crosse, played on the home grounds, in a score of 5 to 0.

Fred Truax was in town on Thanksgiving day seeing his many old friends.

More Hustlers Wanted.

There are several boys at work for the commission and prizes we have offered, and there is room for several more. One boy turned in \$20 for the work put in three evenings after school. There is an opportunity on each of the rural routes for some good hustler. While a majority of the patrons on each route are taking the Rustler, the amount that can be collected on subscriptions, with the new subscribers that can be secured, will give the required amount for the scholarship if it is desired or the commission if that would be preferred. The same is true of all the towns in the county, and also on inland points with regards to the Democrat list.

On Thanksgiving night Dr. White’s horse drawing the buggy gave him the slip while the doctor was making a call. The horse wandered into J. W. Soderstrom’s back yard, and was reported by telephone to central, and from here the doctor found his charger.



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The Carr Dinner.

At Mr. and Mrs. William E. Carr’s Thanksgiving dinner party yesterday in honor of their house party guests, Mrs. Ed. L. Teed and Mr. N. B. Sawyer won prizes in a culinary guessing contest. The lady’s token was a Haviland bread and butter plate and the gentleman’s, a deck of cards. A limited number of friends were invited at noon, but at the card party in the evening a larger number of Hutchinson friends made up the number of guests to meet the Great Bend friends. High five was the game of the evening, and the out of town guest prizes were won by Mrs. E. W. Moses and Mr. Ed. S. Marx. The home guest tokens were awarded to Mrs. A. W. Tyler and Mr. Fred Myers. The prizes were handsome sterling silver bells for the ladies and for the gentlemen, hat brushes with sterling silver backs. Several members of the Great Bend party left this morning for their homes. Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dean, Mrs. E. W. Moses, Mrs. Castle, and Mrs. Marx will remain for several days. —Hutchinson News.

New D. of H. Officers.

A good attendance was present at the Degree of Honor meeting Friday night. The following officers were elected. Miss Bessie Hooper, as the retiring Chief of Honor becomes Past Chief of Honor, Mrs. Lois Lamoreux, Chief of Honor, Mrs. Clemmie Dodge, Lady of Honor, Mrs. Dora Pratt, Chief of Ceremonies, Mrs. Mary Johnson, Usher, Miss Flora Smith Recorder, Mrs. Ora Smith, Financier, James Slinn, Receiver, H. J. Smith, I. W., Oscar Johnson, O. W. W. P. Feder, trustee, Drs. Morrison and McPherson medical examiners. The lodge is doing very nicely and looks forward to a winter of plenty of good work.

George Dale and bride will occupy the residence owned by the I. O. O. F., formerly occupied by Mrs. John Crilly in the 3d ward.

FOR SALE—Good Sunflower posts raised by Steinhoff Bros.

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